

**MYRTLE RESERVOIR SITE  
MORGAN ALTERNATIVE SITE  
PUBLIC MEETING 3/14/07  
MEETING NOTES**

**MYRTLE RESERVOIR**

- Will there be parking?
- The site has the best view in Seattle – enhance the view.
- It does not have attributes for a skatepark
- There is an opportunity to put skatepark by community center, don't put it at the reservoir
- I am concerned about parking, security, please limit lighting
- A regional skatepark facility will attract “derelict” teenagers.
- I would feel cheated if there were a skate park.
- I want green, grasses, benches
- During design, consider the relationship of the park to the water reservoir. Water is precious; you can't see it - you ask yourself “where does water come from?”
- I do not think skatepark fits with a place of respite.
- Noise will travel from the park because it is the highest spot
- Needs places to sit
- Need to create a community focal point
- Focal point of the park is the downtown view
  - Fountain in the middle
  - Take down some trees to maximize the view
  - Benches
- I live in the neighborhood and I skate. I do not think a regional facility is appropriate - think about smaller facility; district or skatespot.
- There are nice view spots. Maybe fit in smaller skate park.
- There is an opportunity to use different levels of the site differently –
  - High point
  - Bocce or petanc site
  - chess tables
  - place to congregate
  - could do small skatepark in NE corner
  - SW field & community center could host regional skatepark facility
- I don't think there should be a skate park. There are other places with lights and restrooms. I would like a fountain, public art, picnic facility.
- Create a pond, water feature, and picnic area
- Install video (tape surveillance) cameras
- Do you accept volunteers to help maintain the site?
- What is a skate dot
  - I've talked to kids in the area who want to skate
  - Would like to see a district or smaller skate park
  - I would also like view areas with picnic areas and maybe with a play area
- Something to attract birds
- I am against cutting trees
- If there were a dot or spot it is ok as long as it is not bigger.
- Attract wildlife with native plantings

- Pesticide-free park
- Some of the existing trees could be replanted out of view. I don't want bathrooms or parking.
- I would like both parks to create identity; involve community in forming identity.
- Create a gathering place, use view to meet and talk.
- Plant trees but preserve views
  - Native trees
  - Minimize streets
  - Use north end access instead of creating a new one as shown in the SPU drawing
- I don't like skate park
- Reference the reservoir in the park design with a rain garden and educational signs. Use topography in design and plant with eco-turf.
- Childrens play structure nearer to homes
  - Create a covered area or use shade trees
  - Create an identifying character like Whaletail Park
  - Parking is needed for skatepark. I don't want.
- Emphasize water education in design, but I want something I can run through like they create at Cal Anderson Park. Emphasize play, and family use elements. Figure out how not to add the Cell phone facilities. The skatepark I visited in Burien is great. Basketball hoop was noisier.
- I do not want a skate park. Too few green spots that are flat. Put a skate ark at a community center.
- Keep it simple

## **BEVERIDGE**

- This is an opportunity to create a people-space, and an activity space.
  - Eyes on park is good
  - Need to buffer parking lot
  - Park should encourage all users
- Give something for people to do. Chess, tables.
- I like how the Alaska Junction Plaza plan uses the design to create different layers/levels.
- Establish a buffer at Eddy to contain the park so it doesn't flow out into the ugly street and alley.
- Park will be used for eating – install trash, benches, and water feature for noise.
- Concern about smokers – make it a no smoking park
- Space is small, maybe a local public art piece.
- Seattle underwater art feature that was on reservoir was great, but quickly vandalized. If there is art it has to be vandal-resistant, easily maintained.
- Character like a piazza – paved, flexible space. Need a mid-block crosswalk to connect to senior housing.
- Plaza, maybe a design other than Italian-inspired.
- Terrace down from street. Create an art-piece (arbor?) above act as rain shelter.
- Place to sit, fountain to break noise. Use colorful vegetation. It is a mistake to put park next to tavern. Too much smoking/drinking – wrong message for children. The alley is cruddy, maybe there is a way to soften that edge.?
- This would be a great location for a skate park. This site should be hard landscape with tables and chairs with shade. Sink a portion of the site. Do screen from street and parking.
- Need some kind of rain break, and a kiosk for posting neighborhood information.

- Beveridge Place pub can adopt the park to keep it clean. The pub will have outdoor seating overlooking the park. They will screen off parking.
- Don't build parking. Restrict parking on Eddy. Like idea of gathering space. Recognize senior center across the street.
- Less hard surfaces. More trees, and garden to make it quiet and cool. Gathering space is nice.
- Could a strip club be located next to the park.
- I like the piazza idea with green to soften. I'm concerned about security. Don't build anything dark and covered.
- Shade does not have to be trees. It could be an arch or arbor.
- Plant a natural fence along California Ave.
- Since there is wildlife in ravine, need to keep park free of food waste.

## Notes from Myrtle & Morgan Park Public Meeting #1 on 3/14/07

Courtesy of Cindi Barker

This is considered an early design-guidance meeting. All options are on the table and nothing is removed at this meeting. Parks Dept brochure was distributed...

Genesis in NH Plan – Green Crescent strategy. Reservoir was originally soft lid, now hard lid. Substation – monorail – brokered a deal with current owner.

Mentioned skate park process as proposed by “the community of Seattle.” That provoked questions of who and how. Talked out scaling and considering a district skate spot.

Q How does a Skatepark Plan override the Green Crescent?

A It is not negated, it is placed as a consideration.

Q More concerns about who voted on Skate Park Plan

A See website – brief discussion of SP Advisory Committee

Reservoir – no physical changes like dog park and garden (..... For health concerns) or things on top of the lid that affects lid load.

Notified about ¼ mile area around each. Media, PI, Herald, sign at site, MoCA

Will go to Park Board, and will go to Seattle Design Commission because they are capital projects.

Q What is the voting process and how do you decide?

A I'll write everything down and then organize into themes to give to the designer. We do not just count votes and make it look like a decision is made because so many comments come by phone and email.

Q Should we email you to influence the decisions?

A It is my job to take in all and synthesize all comments

Morgan site has already been environmentally cleaned up. Cited the monorail guiding principals. Myrtle has more baggage – topography and what can be allowed at the site. The topography influences pedestrian access. Water towers will be fenced and maybe the cell tower.

Road access will probably be necessary for maintenance. But if there is reason to change from a paved road that meets maintenance needs, and the budget is there, they may be open to discussion.

### MYRTLE RESERVOIR

Where is the parking – best views in the city – whatever is done should enhance that view. SP does not support view enhancing, plus parking would be needed.

SP should go to a community center. I'm ½ b N – security lighting, parking, field lights are all concerns. Property value considerations. Lots of derelict teenagers hanging around – comparison to Ballard Park for thinking regional SP attracts a bad crowd.

1 b South – years promise of a park, I'd feel cheated if it's a SP. This should be for all to enjoy and they are not skateboarders. I want green, open space for people to run around. Let kids and adults run around.

Relationships – this is a water reservoir. A park should reflect that relationship and brought into sensibly.

Water is a precious commodity and kids don't even know where water comes from. The activities that are put there should reflect that rather than a SP.

More place for quiet respite. North – the construction noise is horrible – imagine SP noise. Make seating available, it has a focal point.

Focal point of park is the view. Vegetation low, benches, fountain centerpiece, remove trees on downslope to maximize view – maximize tranquility and keep “activities” over at the community center.

I'm a skate boarder; I do not support a regional park at this site, it would be better some place else. High Point Community Center is not the best place to drop off kids. But I still think a skate feature is good.

I support view, and may be ok with a small skate feature.

Ann M – I think it has opportunity on many levels. I agree with view. I would like passive Petanc type activity. Also little tables with chairs so people could congregate.

I do not think skate park – because Lincoln Park has all the infrastructure in place already.

Tie it to water- the good fountain idea and tie it to public art. Picnic facilities should be available.

Ponds water feature. Picnic, restful. My issue would be security and restrooms.

Restrooms are expensive and have security issues. Also we only offer local parking where there is a need for more parking.

I would like to see security features like cameras. Question – who takes care of this? A= Parks Dept and Adopt A Park volunteers.

Chas – 5b South – I talked to kids, they would use a site here and do not want to cross the street, so would like SP. Wants a viewpoint, west and on the lid, tables and bbq and play area that will service kids so they don't run off.

Something that attracts birds and wildlife, butterflies (lives on alley)... would be ok with skate dot.

Park without pesticides; want to see the trees removed for const replaced; no bathrooms or parking.

Help create identity for MJ, maximize opportunities to create community – especially around public art.

This could be a place to gather and discuss NH issues.

Second comment about planting trees, esp native. ....put in a public street....

Reservoir references water, so put in something like a water garden, use the topography.

Child play structure closer to homes. Shady area. Character established by an art piece to give it a sense of place. Parking concerns.

Cell towers no. Water feature that kids can play in. Do not throw out SP dot.

Do not see SP here, want the flat green area. Also vote for plain, do not go overboard.

Add critter trash abatement up here.

### MORGAN PARK

David said he wants to ask BPP to put in a window looking into the park.

Steve – use this opportunity to build community character, also encourage eyes on site, want screening from parking area, encourage all users, singles and families.

Chas – chess tables, checkers tables and things that encourage people to come. Sat in Alaska plaza, liked the layered seating approach there. Want unobtrusive buffer along Eddy edge preventing people from abusing alley space.

I think park will be used for eating – have trash containers, tables, you should have water feature that softens traffic noise.

And citizen is concerned about smokers and drinkers.

Small space – public art feature of SW Seattle – nature

Seattle Under Water art feature at Myrtle – was defaced pretty quickly. Whatever we put in should stand up to that and be as easily maintained as possible.

Small NH piazza in Italy, uniquely paved, small tables, a small water feature, and steps to sit on. Mid-block crossing.

Liked piazza but also maybe Asian. Terrace down from street, with art above serving as a rain break.

Place to sit with coffee, fountain to break noise, mix in color of trees. But think park next to tavern is a mistake. Alley is cruddy.

Skate park ha! Liked piazza with hard landscape and shade and sunken.

Cindi – Kiosk, piazza, rainbreak.

Gary – PBB wants to adopt the park to help with garbage policing. We don't want to see a vandalized park. Will be outdoor seating overlooking the park. Parking will try not to point headlight into park.

Is ESR open space? A = Yes open for open use until the SROW reverts back to ownership. Gary said the site currently slopes about four feet from curb to back of lot. Like to acknowledge need of seniors.

Alley access? A= we want to stay out of improving the ROW.

See less hard surfaces, more trees and native bushes, like NH gathering space, think trees would make it cooler in summer.

Park / Tavern – any rules about strip clubs? Discussed what would have to be in zoning.

Love open piazza but would like to soften. We live just north and overlook. Our big concern would be security – that alley is very dark and our building's parking has had problems – do not leave it dark. Like having pub overlook.

My shade idea was not trees, more an archway or feature that provides rain protection.

Natural fence along California Ave that would keep kids safe.

Not sure about mid block crossing because cars are backing up so far.

ESR home to two coyote families and wildlife, so if we encourage eating there, food trash disposal needs to be regularly maintained. Critter abatement.

Is there a similar park that does not have security issues? Want to see successful examples.

A Not so many urban plazas. Three in Ballard, history of congregation. We can request information

Best discouragement for illegal activity is to encourage active use. PBB is an active partner and also the seniors across the street.

## SUMMARY OF MYRTLE

Lots of ideas – not solving anything here. They will come back with a series of ideas not all of which will be totally acceptable.

1. Skate park generally not [supported, however it will still be considered by the in designer in initial options – *David Goldberg inserted this parenthetical statement*]
2. View concept
3. Green open space – respite, flexible area to explore
4. Acknowledge water (although Parks does not support this, generally) relationship
5. Might be a place for active element, children's structure

6. No need for restroom or lighting at this site (unless it's a district SP)
7. Steve cited plaza with basalt and bamboo

#### SUMMARY OF BEVERIDGE

1. Mostly hardscape – piazza idea with a little bit of green. Impervious surface may be considered – some softening.
2. Gathering space, food, seating
3. Screening from parking – natural edges, layered seating
4. Explore balance of light and shade

Talked about gathering comments first, instead of presenting the big design for acceptance. People said they appreciate of this type of process.

Will post notes on web and send to MoCA. We'll give this plus the cookbook to the design team to engage consultants.

Then two more meetings to show concepts, another if needed.

the end